

APPROVED MINUTES
Board of Finance Regular Meeting

January 20, 2009
6:30 PM Room 119
7:30 PM -Board of Ed Meeting Room

The meeting was called to order at 6:35 PM by Chairman Murry Stegelmann. Members of the Board of Finance in attendance were Martha Banks, Lori Bora, Gwen Mogenson and Liz Mao. Absent were Tom Volpe and Jon Zagrodzky. Kate Clarke Buch, Finance Director was present. The meeting was being taped by Channel 79. Also present were Richard Huot and Paul Engemann.

The Chairman called for a motion to go to other business. Gwen Mogenson made such a motion and it was seconded and approved 5-0.

BOE Energy Upgrade

Mr. Stegelmann invited Mr. Huot to address the board members about the BOE Energy Upgrade Plan –the school lighting project. Mr. Huot informed the board that the state would be providing less money than was originally expected. The amount of the state reimbursement will be \$135, 843. The total cost of the project is \$583,801. After reimbursement, the cost would be \$447,958, but if the town paid up front, the cost would be reduced by 2 percent, for a total cost of \$438,998.84. Ms. Mogenson made a motion to reapprove the energy conservation project, and to approve the appropriation of \$438,998.84 so that the town could benefit from the 2 percent reduction for up front payment. The motion was seconded and approved 5-0.

DEA Contract

Mr. Stegelmann then began the discussion about the new DEA contract. Mr. Huot explained that the contract was not a uniform 3.9 percent increase as the contract includes step raises and an adjustment of medical reimbursements. Liz Mao noted that another town was looking to reopen its negotiations in light of the current economic situation. After discussion, the Board reached a consensus that the contract was a good one and should be recommended for approval.

Jon Zagrodzky joined the meeting at 6:55 PM.

Ms. Mao made a motion to recommend to the RTM that the RTM approve the teachers' contract. The motion was seconded with and approved with a vote of 5-0-1 (Mr. Zagrodzky abstaining.)

TRANSFERS

Mr. Engemann then presented the BOE's request to transfer \$26,000 from the Holmes School Portable (a Capital Projects account) account to a steam pipe repair account in order to repair the steam pipes at Royle School. Ms. Bora made a motion to approve the transfer. It was seconded and approved 6-0.

SPECIAL APPROPRIATION

Mr. Engemann then presented a request for a special appropriation of \$425, 000 to replace the boilers at Royle School. He noted that the current boilers almost didn't pass inspection this past year, ~~were~~ are 60 years old, and ~~were~~ are unlikely to pass a future inspection. The new boilers ~~were~~ are expected to be 25 percent more cost efficient and ~~that they would~~ will be ~~dual~~ dual fuel capable. Mr. Engemann explained that the BOE was coming forward with a special request rather than wait for the normal course of putting the project into next year's capital budget because of the necessity to have the boilers installed before the start of next fall's heating season. Ms. Banks made a motion that the Board of Finance recommend to the RTM the appropriation of \$425,000 for the new boilers. The motion was seconded and approved 6-0.

TRANSFERS UNDER \$5,000

The Parks and Recreation Department requests ~~and~~ transfer of \$1,844 from the Tennis Court resurfacing account to the account for Tennis Court fence replacement. The transfer is necessary to cover a shortfall in meeting the low bid for the job. Ms. Bora made a motion to approve the transfer. The motion was seconded and approved 6-0.

TRANSFERS OVER \$5,000

A request to transfer a total of \$8,000 from the ZBA Regulatory Counsel account and the Other Regulatory Counsel account to the EPC Regulatory Counsel ~~Account~~ Account ~~was~~ was presented by Kate Buch. Ms. Mao made a motion to approve the transfer. The motion was seconded and approved 6-0.

Kate Buch also presented a request to transfer \$6380 from the Admin Officer Full Time account to the Human ~~resources~~ Resources full time account to reflect the sharing of an employee. Ms. Mogenson made a motion to approve the transfer. The motion was seconded and approved 6-0.

The Darien TV79 requested a transfer of \$13,100 from Contingency and Salary Seasonal accounts to the account for paying Channel 79 operators. This amount should cover operators from December 2008 through June 2009. Ms. Mao made a motion to approve the transfer. It was seconded and approved 6-0. For future budgets, there was consensus that the Selectman should provide policy guidance for TV 79 filming.

At 7:30 PM the meeting was temporarily adjourned so that the Board of Finance could attend a meeting at the Board of Education. At 8 PM the Board of Finance meeting reconvened in room 119.

The Board of Selectmen is seeking a transfer from RFCNRE of \$42,000 to pay for exterior lighting in the front of Town Hall. Jon Zagrodzky questioned whether this project should be deferred. He then made a motion to table the request to the next meeting. The motion was seconded and approved 6-0.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Kate Buch discussed significant departures from budgeted amounts.

OPEB

Kate Buch reported that the best way to handle the OPEB (Other Post-Employment Benefits accounting rule change) obligation would be to set up a trust and fund the obligation at a 30 year level dollar amortization. The amount is estimated to be \$550,000 per year. Ms. Mao made a motion to authorize Kate Buch to contact attorneys to prepare trust documents and advise us of the proper procedures for establishing the trust with a 30 year level dollar amortization. The motion was seconded and approved 6-0.

MINUTES

It was agreed that minutes would be voted on at the next meeting.

SHARED SERVICES

Mr. Stegelmann requested a volunteer to serve on a shared services committee with a representative from the Town and from the BOE. Martha Banks agreed to serve.

Mr. Zagrodzky made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded and approved 6-0. There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Elizabeth Smith Mao, Clerk

